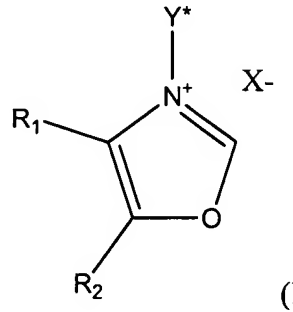
Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A compound of formula II:



(II)

wherein

a. R^1 and R^2 are

1. independently selected from hydrogen, acylamino, acyloxyalkyl, alkanoyl, alkanoylalkyl, alkenyl, alkoxy, alkoxycarbonyl, alkoxycarbonylalkyl, alkyl, alkylamino, (C_1- C_3)alkylenedioxy, allyl, amino, ω-alkylenesulfonic acid, carbamoyl, carboxy, carboxyalkyl, cycloalkyl, dialkylamino, halo, hydroxy, (C_2-C_6)hydroxyalkyl, mercapto, nitro, sulfamoyl, sulfonic acid, alkylsulfonyl, alkylsulfinyl, alkylthio, trifluoromethyl, azetidin-1-yl, morpholin-4-yl, thiomorpholin-4-yl, piperidin-1-yl, 4-[C_6 or C_{10}]arylpiperidin-1-yl, 4-[C_6 or C_{10}]arylpiperazin-1-yl, Ar, wherein, consistent with the rules of aromaticity, Ar is C_6 or C_{10} aryl or a 5- or 6- membered heteroaryl ring, wherein 6-membered heteroaryl ring contains one to three atoms of N, and the 5-membered heteroaryl ring contains from one to three atoms of N or one atom of O or S and zero to two atoms of N, each heteroaryl ring can be fused to a benzene, pyridine, pyrimidine, pyridazine, pyrazine, or (1,2,3)triazine wherein the ring fusion is at a carbon-carbon double bond of Ar Ar-alkyl, Ar-O, $ArSO_2$-, ArSO-, ArS-, $ArSO_2NH$-, ArNH, (N-Ar)(N-alkyl)N-, ArC(O)-, ArC(O)NH-, ArNH-C(O)-, and (N-Ar)(N-alkyl)N-C(O)-, or together R_1 and R_2 comprise methylenedioxy; or

2. together with their ring carbons form a C_6- or C_{10}-aromatic fused ring system; or

3. together with their ring carbons form a C_5-C_7 fused cycloalkyl ring having up to two double bonds including any fused double bond of the oxazolium containing ring, which cycloalkyl ring can be substituted by one or more of the group consisting of alkyl, alkoxycarbonyl, amino, aminocarbonyl, carboxy, fluoro, or oxo substituents; or

4. together with their ring carbons form a 5- or 6-membered heteroaryl ring, wherein the 6-membered heteroaryl ring contains one to three atoms of N, and the 5-membered heteroaryl ring contains from one to three atoms of N or one atom of O or S and zero to two atoms of N, each heteroaryl ring may be optionally substituted with one or more 1-pyrrolidinyl-, 4-[C_6 or C_{10}] arylpiperazin-1-yl, 4-[C_6 or C_{10}]arylpiperidin-1-yl, azetidin-1-yl, morpholin-4-yl, thiomorpholin-4-yl, piperidin-1-yl, halo or (C_1-C_3)alkylenedioxy groups; or

5. together with their ring carbons form a five to eight membered heterocycle, wherein the heterocycle consists of ring atoms selected from the group consisting of carbon, nitrogen, and $S(O)_n$, where n=0, 1, or 2;

b. Y* is a group of the formula -CH(R^5)-R^6 wherein

(a) R^5 is hydrogen, alkyl-, cycloalkyl-, alkenyl-, alkynyl-, aminoalkyl-, dialkylaminoalkyl-, (N-[C_6 or C_{10}]aryl)(N-alkyl) aminoalkyl-, piperidin-1-ylalkyl, 1-pyrrolidin-1-ylalkyl, azetidinylalkyl, 4-alkylpiperazin-1-ylalkyl, 4-alkylpiperidin-1-ylalkyl, 4-[C_6 or C_{10}]arylpiperazin-1-ylalkyl, 4-[C_6 or C_{10}]arylpiperidin-1-ylalkyl, azetidin-1-ylalkyl, morpholin-4-ylalkyl, thiomorpholin-4-ylalkyl, piperidin-1-ylalkyl, [C_6 or C_{10}]aryl, or independently the same as R^6;

(b) R^6 is

(1) cyano or R_T, wherein R_T is a C_6 or C_{10} aryl;

(2) a group of the formula -W-R_S, wherein W is -C(=O)- or -$S(O)_n$- where n=1 or 2 and R_S is C_6 or C_{10} aryl or a heterocycle containing 4-10 ring atoms of which 1-3 are heteroatoms selected from the group consisting of oxygen, nitrogen, and sulfur;

(3) a group of the formula -W-N(R^9)R^{10}, wherein

[a] R^9 is hydrogen and R^{10} is an alkyl or cycloalkyl, optionally substituted by

(i) [C_6 or C_{10}]aryl, or

(ii) a 5- or 6-membered heteroaryl ring, wherein the 6-membered heteroaryl ring contains one to three atoms of N, and the 5-membered heteroaryl ring contains from one to three atoms of N or one atom of O or S and zero to two atoms of N, said heteroaryl ring can be optionally substituted with one or more 1-pyrrolidinyl, 4-[C_6 or C_{10}]arylpiperazin-1-yl, 4-[C_6 or C_{10}]arylpiperidin-1-yl, azetidin-1-yl, and morpholin-4-yl, thiomorpholin-4-yl, piperidin-1-yl, halo or (C_1-C_3) alkylenedioxy groups, or fused to a phenyl or pyridine ring, wherein the ring fusion is at a carbon-carbon double bond of the heteroaryl ring, or

(iii) a heterocycle containing 4-10 ring atoms of which 1-3 are heteroatoms selected from the group consisting of oxygen, nitrogen and sulfur; or

[b] R^9 is hydrogen or lower alkyl and R^{10} is Ar; or

[c] R^9 is hydrogen or lower alkyl, and R^{10} is a heterocycle containing 4-10 ring atoms of which 1-3 are heteroatoms are selected from the group consisting of oxygen, nitrogen and sulfur; or

[d] R^9 and R^{10} are both alkyl groups; or

[e] R^9 and R^{10} together with N form a heterocycle containing 4-10 ring atoms which can incorporate up to one additional heteroatom selected from the group of N, O or S in the ring, wherein the heterocycle is optionally substituted with (C_6- or C_{10})aryl, (C_6- or C_{10})arylalkyl, or a 5- or 6-membered heteroaryl ring, wherein the 6-membered heteroaryl ring contains one to three atoms of N, and the 5-membered heteroaryl ring

contains from one to three atoms of N or one atom of O or S and zero to two atoms of N, each such heteroaryl can be optionally substituted with one or more 1-pyrrolidinyl, 4-[C_6 or C_{10}]arylpiperazin-1-yl, 4-[C_6 or C_{10}] arylpiperidin-1-yl, azetidin-1-yl, morpholin-4-yl, thiomorpholin-4-yl, piperidin-1-yl, halo or (C_1-C_3)alkylenedioxy; or

[f] R^9 and R^{10} are both hydrogen; and

c. X is a pharmaceutically acceptable anion, or

a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the compound of formula II,

wherein aryl or Ar can be substituted with, in addition to any substitutions specifically noted, one or more general substituents selected from the group consisting of acylamino, acyloxyalkyl, alkanoyl, alkanoylalkyl, alkenyl, alkoxy, alkoxycarbonyl, alkoxycarbonylalkyl, alkyl, alkylamino, (C_1-C_3)alkylenedioxy, alkylsulfonyl, alkylsulfinyl, ω-alkylenesulfonic acid, alkylthio, allyl, amino, ArC(O)-, ArC(O)NH-, ArO-, Ar-, Ar-alkyl-, carboxy, carboxyalkyl, cycloalkyl, dialkylamino, halo, trifluoromethyl, hydroxy, (C_2-C_6)hydroxyalkyl, mercapto, nitro, sulfamoyl, sulfonic acid, 1-pyrrolidinyl, 4-[C_6 or C_{10}]arylpiperazin-1-yl, 4-[C_6 or C_{10}]arylpiperidin-1-yl, azetidin-1-yl, morpholin-4-yl, thiomorpholin- 4-yl, piperidin-1-yl;

wherein heterocycles, except those of Ar, can be substituted with, in addition to any substitutions specifically noted, the following general substitutions: acylamino, alkanoyl, alkoxy, alkoxycarbonyl, alkoxycarbonylalkyl, alkyl, alkylamino, alkylsulfonyl, alkylsulfinyl, alkylthio, amino, ArC(O)-, ArO-, Ar-, carboxy, dialkylamino, fluoro, fluoroalkyl, difluoroalkyl, hydroxy, mercapto, sulfamoyl, or trifluoromethyl;

wherein the compound of formula II <u>is not</u> ~~differs from~~ a salt of 3-[2-(3,5-dimethoxyphenyl)-2-oxoethyl]-oxazolium ~~by one or more of the lack or replacement of one of the methoxy substitutions, or the presence of one or more additional substitutions; and~~

~~wherein the compound of formula II differs from~~ <u>or</u> a salt of 5-phenyl-3-phenylmethyl-oxazolium ~~by one or more of the lack or replacement of the 5-phenyl substitution, or the presence of one or more additional substitutions~~.

2. (Previously Presented) The compound of claim 1, wherein Y* is - $CH(R^5)$-W-R_S.

3. (Previously Presented) The compound of Claim 1, wherein R^1 and R^2, together with their ring carbons form a C_6 or C_{10}- aromatic fused ring which can be substituted by one or more halo, amino, alkyl, sulfonic acid, alkylsulfonyl, or ω-alkylenesulfonic acid groups, or a C_1-C_3 alkylenedioxy group.

4. (Original) The compound of Claim 1, wherein Ar is a C_6 or C_{10} aryl

5. (Previously Presented) The compound of claim 1, wherein

a. R^1 and R^2 are

1. independently selected from hydrogen, acylamino, acyloxyalkyl, alkanoyl, alkanoylalkyl, alkenyl, alkoxy, alkoxycarbonyl, alkoxycarbonylalkyl, alkyl, (C_1-C_3)alkylenedioxy, allyl, ω-alkylenesulfonic acid, carbamoyl, carboxy, carboxyalkyl, cycloalkyl, halo, hydroxy, (C_2-C_6)hydroxyalkyl, mercapto, nitro, sulfamoyl, sulfonic acid, alkylsulfonyl, alkylsulfinyl, alkylthio, or trifluoromethyl;

b. Y is a group of the formula –$CH(R^5)$-R^6 wherein

(a) R^5 is hydrogen or alkyl;

(b) R^6 is R_T, wherein R_T is C_6 or C_{10} aryl; and

g. X is a pharmaceutically acceptable anion, or

a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the compound of formula II,

wherein aryl is optionally substituted with one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of acylamino, acyloxyalkyl, alkanoyl, alkanoylalkyl, alkenyl, alkoxy, alkoxycarbonyl, alkoxycarbonylalkyl, alkyl, (C_1-C_3)alkylenedioxy, alkylsulfonyl, alkylsulfinyl, ω- alkylenesulfonic acid, alkylthio, allyl, carboxy, carboxyalkyl,

cycloalkyl, halo, trifluoromethyl, hydroxy, (C_2-C_6)hydroxyalkyl, mercapto, nitro, sulfamoyl, and sulfonic acid.

6. (Previously Presented) The compound of claim 5, wherein R_T is C_6 aryl.

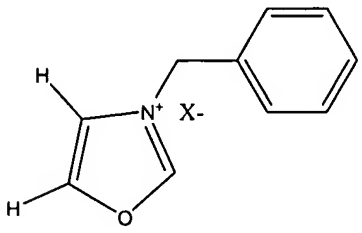
7. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising: a compound of one of claims 1 to 6 and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

8 - 10. Canceled.

11. (Previously Presented) The compound of claim 1, wherein R^1 and R^2 are hydrogen.

12. (Previously Presented) The compound of claim 1, wherein R^5 is hydrogen and R^6 is R_T, wherein R_T is C_6 aryl.

13. (Previously Presented) A compound having the formula:



,

wherein X is a pharmaceutically acceptable anion;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.